

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-18 and 20-38 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Independent claims 1, 9, 13, 18, 23 and 27, when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Specifically, the prior art of Bogdan teaches a method where "a user interface control implementing a global keyboard navigation system by way of printable keyboard character input to extend an incremental type search across all window components within a defined scope; a container is defined having one or more components; a search can be limited to the contents of the container", But the claims recite a different combination of limitation: *"grouping the displayed user interface elements alphabetically into groups according to characters contained in text labels associated with the user interface elements, the user interface elements indicating, on the screen , a user interface element currently having focus to receive user input"*, that is not suggested or shown by Bogdan.

Hoose teaches the use of a mode file to customize or predetermine an order in which the application cycles through input fields when the user presses the "tab" key on the keyboard but the claims recite a different combination of limitation: *"grouping the*

displayed user interface elements alphabetically into groups according to characters contained in text labels associated with the user interface elements, the user interface elements indicating, on the screen , a user interface element currently having focus to receive user input", that is not suggested or shown by Hoose.

Further the claims cite a different limitation than the combined Bogdan and Hoose; *detecting a user navigation input comprising: a forward user navigation input comprising a forward modifier key press combined with a key press of at least one text character identifying one of the groups of user interface elements, and the a backward user navigation input comprising a backward modifier key press combined with a key press of at least one text character identifying one of the groups of user interface elements*; that is not suggested or shown by Bogdan in view of Hoose

The dependent claims further add limitations to the allowable subject matter of the corresponding independent claims; thus are also allowable. Therefore the claims are allowed over the art because the claims differ in scope that is not seen or suggested by the prior art.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Augustine whose telephone number is 571-270-1056 and fax is 571-270-2056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 9:30am- 5:00pm Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas Augustine/
Examiner
Art Unit 2179
January 14, 2010

/Ba Huynh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2179